

The Ohio Election.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer attributes the late disaster to the Democratic party in this State to the factious proceedings of the Eighth of January Convention, the inconsistency of Mr. Tod on the currency question, and the change of the party issue from mere Anti-Bankism to hard money. It says—

"The Whigs expected to be beat, and one-third of their party stayed at home, hoping for such a result. But notwithstanding all these advantages, the election was allowed to go by default. *Forty thousand Democrats*, men who voted for Tod in '44, *stayed at home* rather than sanction such outrages upon their rights. It was not so much to the new issue as they objected as to the time and manner."

"They did not want to sanction the precedent of letting a candidate for the highest office in the State carry his principles in his breeches pocket, and it is pleasant to bring them forth for the service of a faction, nor did they wish to countenance any other precedent established by that convention, at war with the principles and usages of the party. Thousands voted for Tod at the late election from the necessity of the case, being at no other democratic candidate in the field, but who would not do so again under any circumstances. And more than five were beaten, badly beaten, and that they were the worst of the whig party. A more glorious defeat is not to be recorded in any State of the Union."

We have seen but one other democratic paper which has alluded to the causes of the defeat, and that was the *Commonwealth*. Its explanation, has hitherto failed to do it. But we have seen nothing to convince us that the reasons for the Democratic defeat are not deeper, and therefore more lasting, than any mere ordinary party measure. We do not believe that any considerable number of the party refused to vote, merely because Tod had become a hard.

The *Commonwealth* says that binds and unites democrats, never has been accustomed to yield or disown on a slight provocation. A party that could support Tod with almost insane enthusiasm, although thousands of them previous to his nomination had never heard of him, although he was forced upon a convention, a large majority of whom had been instructed to nominate another person, would never abandon a candidate for merely advancing from the moderate to the ultra democratic position. Neither can it be accounted for by the Tariff or Sub-Treasury Laws passed at the late session of Congress. This is not subject, as Pennsylvania, to panic from the former source. The prejudices of a majority of the people may be in favor of protection; but their interests are so decidedly against it, that nothing can be gained for its friends by an agitation of the subject. The Sub Treasury is a measure, though much talked of, that has not yet elicited a more negative influence beyond Wall street, and can never engender the sympathy of the people either in or out of protection. The truth is, as the Plain Dealer admits, the Democrats had every reason to expect success. They had all the advantages of the contest—The Bank and Tax Laws gave them the attack. It was their turn to win. How has it happened that this well drilled party, so scientific in the use of party machinery, aided by all those titles to success which the possession of federal power gave them, has lost the State of Ohio? We will give our solution of the mystery.

The Democratic leaders in making up their game, left out of the calculation the *conscience* of the People of Ohio. By some strange fatality they entirely overlooked, as an element of political success, all the noblest aspirations of the popular heart, all the finest and most religious sympathies of men, all the affinities which the people have for justice and humanity. In their selfish and selfish calculations they counted upon their party cohesion, upon consistency of policy, upon the support of the reported prejudices of the masses, whom true democracy ought to honor, the unfortunate and the oppressed. The Democratic party violated the fundamental principles of Democracy and those very watchwords and mottoes, which when truly cherished, had all ways excited that enthusiasm which is the talisman of success, were now the surest means of their defeat. Had the party but maintained its consistency, proved faithful to its own essential spirit—the spirit which framed and approved Wilcox's Provision—had it fearlessly and faithfully applied those principles to the Mexican war, which was waged for the very purpose of doing what that provision, and all those who approved it, had declared ought not to be done—had it with noble and heroic courage confronted that miserable and tyrannical prejudice, which is here directed against the unfortunate colored man, instead of pandering and prostituting itself to it, with unbecoming honesty, instead of being the willing tool of free equality, which the slightest limitation is virtual annihilation—had it boldly demanded equal rights for all and insisted on purging from the statute book the infamous code of black laws, it would, we confidently believe, have had the double satisfaction of having honestly done right, and having been triumphantly successful. As it is, they know they have been badly beaten and in the worst of causes, and they expect from the future? Can they rely on the acquiescent power in this State without a radical change in the spirit of their policy? If so, on what grounds do they expect it? Some temporary or local cause may come into existence, that will promote them for a time. But they cannot look for permanent success from mere accidents. It must be built upon principles of universal and undying truth, carried with zeal into a pure and honest practice. Let them but grasp the train of their good principles from the train of their bad ones, they will have the seed of a most plentiful and abounding harvest. Fortune stands ready with her horn of plenty, to pour out rich treasures of good gifts. Let them sow in faith, and they will reap in joy. Let them sink all unkind distinctions of color or race in the broad fellowship of the gospel of political equality, and with omnipotent allies, they shall win success.

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Judge Edmonds' Decision.

The capture of a fugitive from justice, and his consignment back to slavery, has become a more important and noted thing than it used to be. Formerly the seizure of a colored person by some one claiming to be his owner, or his owner's agent, the dragging him before some magistrate, making the formal affidavit and getting the formal certificate, by virtue of which, he was transported back to the chains and unremitted tasks of slavery, created not so much excitement, as the arrest of some common brawler or the commitment of a street pickpocket. The parties concerned, acted in as ordinary manner of business. The public, if it was noticed at all, did not seem to realize it as anything that should command their special attention. No one troubled himself to inquire, if the claim of ownership was true, or seemed to think that anything so important as the determination of a man's right to his liberty was being decided for himself and his posterity, forever. Things have changed, and are still changing. A man cannot now be hurried off from the light and hope of freedom into the utter darkness of slavery, without exciting some attention. A crowd will be drawn, an anxious and interested crowd. The slaveholder, his agent and the magistrate, find themselves watched—counseled and employed to do what the facts are, and a decision may be made by some tribunal more commanding in its character and more responsible by its position. And if perchance, it should happen that the bloody and cruel bond, can be satisfied without the pond of hell, if the law is content with the sacrifice of the best and noblest hopes of a human soul, if the slave-hunter is disappointed in his prey, and the persecuted is declared to be free, then the whole nation, the hosts of honest and liberty-loving men, whose hearts overflow with joy, at the triumph of justice and the rights of man. The question of freedom is beginning to assume that rank in the estimation of the public, the busy, working, toiling, scheming, money-making public, that it holds in the nature of things; and is becoming not only the prominent but the paramount topic of thought and discussion. Every judicial opinion, involving in any way the rights of slaves to man, who have but one right, the right of freedom, is being watched with the keenest interest, and is being discussed by the press, and the people, and the powers of the General Government under the Constitution, are undergoing a searching examination. The recent case of *George Kirk* in New York has excited an unusual degree of public attention. And we believe the result has been gratifying not only to those who profess to devote themselves to the right of obtaining a full recognition of the rights of the slave, but to many who have but been wrongs committed upon the slaves, by witness the aggressions of the same spirit upon the constitutional rights of the free. The opinion of Judge Edmonds which led to his final discharge we commence publishing, today in full. His first decision it will be remembered operated to discharge the person claimed, on the ground that the captain who was claiming him as a fugitive under the Constitution, was not the owner of the slave, for whom alone the Constitutional provision and the Law of Congress provided. He next claimed him by virtue of an old law of the State of New York, passed in aid of slave-catchers and kidnappers, conceived in the same spirit of servilism, which begot our own odious enactments to the misfortune of color. This law Judge Edmonds declares to be unconstitutional—contrary to the fundamental law of the State, but to the United States.

The opinion and the argument in support of it, he found upon the decision of the Supreme Federal Court in the notorious *Prigg* case—

"That case decided that all legislative power concerning the claim and delivery of fugitives from slavery was vested in Congress—and that all State legislation upon the subject was therefore prohibited. We need scarcely say that in our opinion, this decision is erroneous and unconstitutional. The Court were wrong, and we are not the only think of it. We believe it is not only utterly indefensible as a sound construction of the constitution, and unworthy the high reputation of the Court which pronounced it, but utterly and entirely subversive of all just distinctions in the limitations of federal and State power, and in the highest degree dangerous to the sovereignty of the States themselves. But on some accounts we are glad that Judge Edmonds thought it his duty to base his decision upon the precedent established in this case. The decision in the *Prigg* case was founded upon a criminal act of the State of Pennsylvania for the crime of kidnapping. The decision released from severe pains and penalties, one who had sworn fealty to the 'patriarchal institutions,' and was therefore acceptable to the servile and pro-slavery spirit of the country. It was a concession to the claims of slaveholders and slave hunters, and was no doubt obtained through the influence which they have exerted in corrupting and enervating the sentiment of the people. In our view, the true friends of the Constitutional freedom and State Rights regretted and denounced it, fearful that it might long stand in the way of the success of their efforts in curbing and restraining the audacious tyrannies of the slave power. The decision in the case of *Kirk* has taught both sides that it is a double-edged sword, and can cut both ways. It may operate as well for freedom as for slavery. At the same time that it prevents any State from passing laws with respect to laws for the protection and security of the rights of its citizens, demanded by the relation that subsists between them, it also wipes from the statute book those odious and disgraceful laws, which have been extorted from the servile fear of the Free State, to aid the slave-hunter in tracking out and hunting down his weak and defenseless prey. And as it happens that these latter are more numerous than the former, the slave is public to the North. Every where the true friends of the Constitution, and the rights of man, find in this comes to be understood and felt in its practical evil, to the interests of slavery, as it is in this case, the same power which had that decision made, will have it unmade. The *Kirk* decision, once or twice repeated, will work the reversal of that in *Prigg*! No decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, governed and controlled as it is by slaveholders and their minions, that tends, legitimately, to open the security of property to the slave, stands.

The exception which was actually made in that decision in favor of police regulations of a State, was no doubt intended for the benefit of the institution. But before it can be made available, it must be explained, modified or extended, and a very slight disturbance of a decision so slightly founded, and already rocked by the winds of popular condemnation, will serve to overturn it. Although founded on wrong reasons, we think Judge Edmonds' decision perfectly right. The true grounds of his decision we will investigate at another opportunity.

Ohio Statesman.
Col. Medary has resumed the editorship of this paper. His services, no doubt, will prove acceptable to the Democratic party.

The Home Journal.
The National Press which for some time has been published by Geo. P. Morris, is about to be remodeled into a Journal with the above title. Mr. Willis is to be connected with the concern, and together with Geo. Morris, will make one of the best, if not the best weekly family paper published in the Union.

The terms of the paper is \$5 per annum. Three copies will be sent for \$2.

Those who subscribe immediately will get the entire volume.

John Lee Hunt, a journeyman printer, late of Adams, Mich., a year and a half since, and for twelve months has not been heard from. Any one giving information of him to David Burgess, Esq. of Adams, will receive the thanks of his numerous friends.

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